

Virginia Refugee Resettlement



Program Manual



FIRST RELEASE

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FOREWARD

This *Refugee Resettlement Program Manual* is the result of the efforts of many individuals over an extended period of time. Extensive research and collaboration were necessary to complete this project, and policy specialists from a number of programs (TANF, Medicaid, Food Stamps, Foster Care, etc.) have contributed to and reviewed the content of this manual, in order to align it with the existing policy of Virginia's benefits and service programs. Resettlement agencies and service providers have also played an important role in the construction of the manual through their suggestions and comments. The manual is an extension of the refugee program in that it exists as a result of the collaborative input of the entire resettlement network.

The *Refugee Resettlement Program Manual* attempts to include all of the various facets of the resettlement program and to underscore the importance that all players must work together to ensure that refugees achieve the earliest possible self-sufficiency and social assimilation into Virginia's communities. The manual is meant to be an articulation of the Federal regulations (45 CFR 400-402) that govern the Refugee Resettlement Program in the United States, particularly as they have been applied in the state of Virginia. There have been a number of important changes to these regulations over the last several years, so the reader is encouraged to pay careful attention to each section of the manual to ensure that he or she has clearly understood the full implications of these changes upon the program. Every effort has been made to make this a user-friendly document, and it is hoped that the appendices and glossary of terms will be especially valuable to those who will use this manual on a frequent basis.

The Office of Newcomer Services would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this reference document and hopes that it will be of assistance to staff as they go about the important work of refugee resettlement in Virginia.